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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/504,000	02/14/2000	Brent C. Parent	65,678-0004 (DCCIE 5297)	7392
27210 7590 12/13/2007 MACMILLAN, SOBANSKI & TODD, LLC ONE MARITIME PLAZA - FIFTH FLOOR 720 WATER STREET TOLEDO, OH 43604			EXAMINER PATEL, JAGDISH	
			ART UNIT 3693	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/13/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/504,000	Applicant(s) PARENT ET AL.	
	Examiner JAGDISH PATEL	Art Unit 3693	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to amendment filed 4/6/05.

Response to Amendment

2. Claims 1, 16 and 22 have been amended.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to rejection of claims 1, 2 and 22 under 35 USC 102(a) over Pisula are not persuasive. (see explanation provided below.) Rejection of claims 3-18 and 19-21 under 35 USC 112 (second) have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1, 2 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Pisula et al. (WO 99/06934) (hereafter Pisula).

3. Per claims 1-2 and 22 Pisula recites an electronic system for modeling a simulated fleet which comprises a simulated fleet configuration unit (Fig 4 and 5, p. 6 a fleet updating feature

which provides the user to add equipment from their pools), a reporting and analysis module (see p.6 inventory reports) and a communication interface to facilitate electronic remote access (the Pisula system is implemented and accessible over the Internet see p. 2).

4. Per claim 2 the simulated fleet configuration unit comprises at least the fleet builder module including a step-by-step entry system (Fig. 5, p. 6, L 15+).

5. Note that the descriptive term "simulated" in the limitation "simulated fleet" is treated as non-functional descriptive material or non-functional data because it does not functionally change either the fleet configuration unit or the reporting and analysis module. Non-functional descriptive material cannot render nonobvious an invention that would have been otherwise obvious. In claims 1 and 2, the structural limitation of the system are "a simulated fleet configuration unit", "a reporting and analysis module" and "a communication interface" none of which are *structurally* distinct from the fleet configuration, the reporting and analysis module and the communication interface of Pisula. In other words, no distinction is made in the claimed system in terms of the structure of the system. For example, a fleet configuration unit which allows a user to add one or more assets to a fleet can also allow the user to add one or more assets to a simulated fleet because the fleet configuration unit is not alter the function(s) performed by the fleet configuration unit. Nonfunctional descriptive material cannot render non-obvious an invention that would have otherwise been obvious. In re Ngai, **>367 F.3d 1336, 1339, 70 USPQ2d 1862, 1864 (Fed. Cir. 2004). See also In re Gulack, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385-86, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983) ("Where the printed matter is not functionally related to the substrate, the printed matter will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in

terms of patentability....[T]he critical question is whether there exists any new and unobvious functional relationship between the printed matter and the substrate.").

6. In response to applicant's argument that Pisula relates to real assets and not to simulated assets. However, the claimed invention recited "simulated" only in terms of intended use without distinguishing the structure in terms of the simulated assets. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In the instant case, as explained above the system claim recites the descriptive term "simulated" only in terms of intended use without *structurally* distinguishing the claimed system from the prior art.

7. The analysis of "nonfunctional descriptive material" provided in context of system claims 1 and 2 also applied to system claim 22.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 3-15 are objected as being allowable if written in independent form.

9. Claims 16-21 are allowed.

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be

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calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAGDISH PATEL whose telephone number is (571) 272-6748.

The examiner can normally be reached on 800AM-630PM Mon-Tue and Thu.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **KRAMER JAMES A** can be reached on **(571)272-6783**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 517-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jagdish N. Patel

(Primary Examiner, AU 3693)

12/10/07